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Wednesday 5th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last half term we completed our topic on The Victorians. The children learned about the impact of events and inventions in the Victorian era on our lives today. In English we read the novel "Streetchild" by Bernie Doherty. The children really enjoyed this book.

Please find attached a copy of this term's topic plan. We are learning about The Americas. We will focus on each of the American continents; we will be learning about their physical and human geography, including famous landmarks, rivers, mountains, cities and coastlines. Our English text is the novel "Holes" by Louis Sachar; followed by the picture book "Varmints".

Homework

Just a reminder that homework for years 5 and 6 includes:

- one piece of maths homework a week (set on a Thursday and to be handed in the following Tuesday,
- spelling - this is set in Spelling Shed each Monday and is tested on a Friday,
- reading - children should read for at least 20 minutes each day and record their reading in their reading record book. Parents are welcome to comment in this book.

Reading is an important part of your child's homework. The aim is to promote reading for pleasure, so please encourage your child to talk about what they are reading. Reading regularly also helps your child develop their vocabulary, understanding of the world and their writing skills. Ideas for choosing books can be found here: <https://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/>

All children have access to TTRockstars to help them learn their times tables. We have noticed that many children are still not fully able to recall their times tables facts. This means they are struggling to complete maths work that relies on this knowledge. For example, long multiplication, division, fractions and percentages all rely on times tables knowledge. Please encourage your child to practise their tables regularly.

Keeping warm

As the weather turns cooler, can we remind all children to bring a coat to school? We are keeping our classrooms well ventilated as part of our covid safe measures. This does mean that the classrooms can become quite cold. Children are allowed to wear their coats inside if they get too cold. They may also like to wear several layers.

As we are using the field for break times, children may bring in a pair of wellies or outdoor shoes to wear outside if they wish. These should be clearly named and in a bag so that they can be hung on a peg.

Yours sincerely

Ms McMurray, Miss Blyth and Miss Smith
Y5/6 teachers